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Fig. 5 shows the forms of the florets of the Daisy and Sunflower, Nos. 1 and 7 are the barren ray florets, No. 2 is a disk floret of the Daisy, No. 3 is a floret of the Sunflower in bud, No. 4 is the open corolla, out of which at No. 5 the curiously twisted pistil has emerged, a portion of the anthers of the stamens show just above the corolla, these, as they mature, creep up the pistil and straighten it out, as in No. 6.

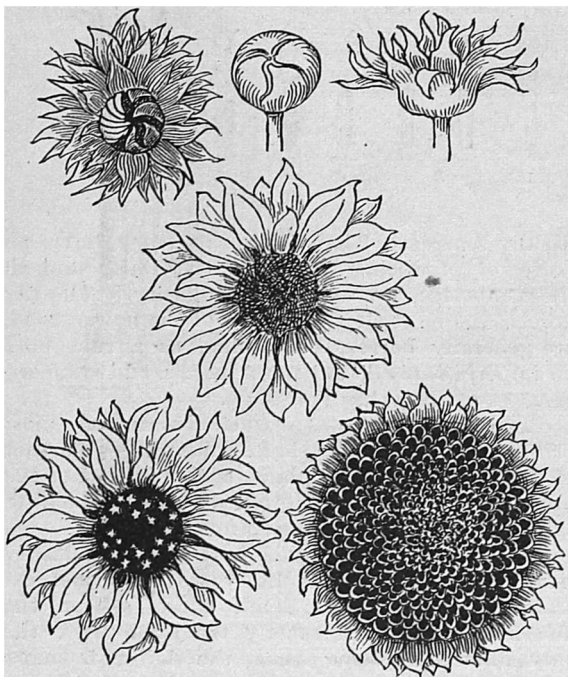
I reared a Sunflower in my garden and carefully studied all its many changes, noticed its peculiarities and became confirmed in my opinion that it is the most perfectly decorative flower that we have. At Fig. 6, I give a faithful study of the whole plant.

The grandeur with which the Sunflower springs up from the earth is most striking. The



main stem, with smaller stems springing outward and upward around it, is exquisitely fluted, the large, glossy, drooping leaves fall about in different directions, and reflect the light and color of the sky, in other places show a sober green (their local color), or where partially turned and seen transparent present a brilliant, yellowish green. The variety and beauty of the flowers is also most admirable, from the large central one, with the dusky brown disk and finely shaped ray petals flaring around it, to the not less beautiful subordinate flowers of the smaller shoots. The individual flower heads, too, are beautiful and interesting in all stages of their development. First, the pretty spherical-shaped, unopened bud, then the opened calyx, with its spiky sepals, in

Fig. 7. Sunflower in various stages.



the centre of which presently appear the tender yellow threads of the future ray petals. In the next stage the ray petals are perfect and open, displaying the greenish brown disk. From the

disk the stamens presently start out, and bursting open to expel the pollen, powder it over with numerous five-pointed stars. In its last stage the flower is still admirable. The ray petals having fallen away, the spiky sepals again show, but now surround a centre composed of purple colored seeds, arranged in a curiously beautiful symmetrical pattern. The droop of the heavy flower, as it endeavors to turn toward the sun, and so faces the spectator, is also most noticeable, for by this means it displays all its beauty to its admirers.

(Continued in our Next Number.)

CANNED HEROES.

NATURE, in her adjustment between want and supply, shows a judgment and thoroughness that must commend itself to every careful observer of human economy—the want is no sooner felt than the supply is at hand.

This is not confined wholly to the imagined necessities of life, to the cravings of the palate for a daintier morsel, or a thirst, by an abnormally sensitive mind, for a more substantial and decorative raiment than the primitive, yet altogether becoming fig-leaf of our early parents; but no thought of a void enters our brain unless accompanied by another thought, which puts it into a tangible condition and indicates means for securing the desire in a material shape.

Scientific men, historians, antiquarians and the like, had been agitated for many years by an unsatisfied desire for a sample of the early kings; they longed for one look at Cyrus, Themistocles, Ossyrimandes, Darius or any or all of those parties who had made a like reputation. The clamor for these defunct individuals became so decided, that it was apparent something must be done, and intelligent savants put their heads together to devise some means for satisfying this reasonable demand.

After careful consideration by these gentlemen, an honest Arab very kindly develops himself as the custodian of no end of canned corpses, and as a guarantee of his integrity he is clapped into jail, and his "find" is despoiled of its riches to the intense satisfaction of various spectacled worthies, who learnedly translate the mystic writing into a modern tongue, and astound us with the presence of Rameses, and Amenhoteph, and Thothmes, Seti, Hathor, Pinotem and a host of others; determined to satisfy the most exacting antiquarian customer and have a supply on hand that will meet any demand that may be made, based upon authentic history, as we know it. When that history is extended and fresh material is asked, there is no doubt fresh material will be forthcoming.

Sceptical persons had cast a doubt upon the existence of Troy, and the authenticity of the Trojan war, but before the echo of their scoffs had died away, Troy came smilingly to the surface with Priamus autograph upon its walls, attesting its genuineness. Naturally this opened a line of wants that will probably be worked to its extreme limit, and the vanguard makes its appearance in the shape of Achilles' shield, which, an English paper tells us, was recently discovered stowed away in some neglected cairn.

Now that this new industry has been opened we shall expect gratifying results, and we look forward to a personal inspection of Noah's Ark and Jason's galley; we know of no reason why the Golden Apples of the Hesperides should not be forthcoming, or the mummied swan consecrated to Apollo; a love letter from Circe to Ulysses would be of interest, and Penelope's web might give many useful hints to modern amateurs; Russia would be glad to pay a liberal figure for the Jew who carted off the Colossus of Rhodes, and an authenticated document telling where Hannibal crossed the Alps would dispose of a vexed question.

We might enumerate numberless interesting mementos that distinguished savants, Arabian dealers, or others, might easily discover, which would command a fair figure upon the market. We trust America will be alive to the situation, and with her usual enterprise will organize a company to bring these things to light.—(Ed.)

OUR GRAND RAPIDS LETTER.

GRAND RAPIDS first became known to the world, as a furniture manufacturing center, through originality in the designs of her chamber suites. To be sure, other commendable points served to augment the reputation of the products of the Grand Rapids market, but neither perfection of workmanship nor variety of styles characterized the work, or gave it so great a reputation abroad, as did the distinguishing feature first mentioned.

The Grand Rapids manufacturers early learned that artistic excellence would invariably be appreciated at its full worth, and having learned it, have always kept the fact well in mind. They have, accordingly, employed the best designers to be had, bringing out full lines of new goods—complete in all departments—every Autumn and Spring season.

Of the twenty-five or more furniture factories here, it is not necessary to speak in detail. The names of their owners are as "household words" among the trade in all parts of the country. That they have been able to pursue the manufacture of fine furniture profitably, is evidenced by the fact that no failure of a furniture manufacturer has ever been recorded at this market.

Of the designers employed at the various factories here, it is, perhaps, sufficient to say that they have few equals and no superiors anywhere. They are all men of considerable experience, having a thorough knowledge of their profession, and several of them have brought out masterpieces that would put to shame much of the best work of the leading draughtsmen, and assumed leaders, in the art of designing in England. No one branch or school of this art has been followed to the exclusion of the others, the highest results having been achieved by a miscellaneous and artistic combination of the various styles now in vogue. Perhaps a better understanding of the matter may be obtained by a passing reference to the leading articles put on the market for the fall trade, by the various corporations.

The Phoenix Furniture Company, which has successfully maintained an enviable reputation for standard walnut goods, rather prides itself this season on a fine display of solid mahogany furniture. Several plain designs of suites in this wood are in Mr. Kendall's happiest vein, and are bound to meet with approval, and, what is more to the purpose, extensive sale. The exhibition suite is a model of originality and workmanship, the prevailing style being Queen Anne. It has rope pillars, and a profusion of carving and other ornamentation.

Messrs. Nelson, Matter and Company also show a line of walnut and solid mahogany work, which is as complete as it is unique. Mr. Radcliffe's exhibition suite of last year, which President Arthur complimented by selecting for his own use in the White House, and which was designated by a prominent art critic as a "poem in wood," is eclipsed this season by a suite similar in design and workmanship, bearing an abundance of fine carving, the principal point of dissimilarity being that it is one step nearer artistic excellence.

The Berkley & Gay Furniture Company has placed on the market as fine a line of goods as two excellent designers are capable of producing, and their work speaks for itself. An elegant leading suite was gotten out, but the won't-take-no-for-an-answer representative of John Wanamaker came and purchased the sample, paying an extra price for the stipulation that no more suites of the same design should be made. As a consequence, this corporation is without an exhibition suite, although the line of common, medium-grade and high-priced suites is exceptionally complete.

The Oriel Cabinet Company manufactures fancy and artistic cabinet work almost exclusively, the leading article this season being an elegant mahogany cabinet. The distinguishing feature of the work of this company is its character, the ornamentation not being overloaded, while there is a wealth of elaboration, especially in the details, and an abundance of decoration. A Queen Anne mahogany bed is now in preparation for the holiday trade, which is sure to meet with favor. It has ornamental posts, and stands low, and while excessively plain, possesses points that will bring it before the public. A series of eccentric designs after the styles of antique, Pompeian, Renaissance, Japanese and modern English tables, chairs, cabinets, book cases and bric-a-brac is included in the manufactured goods of this company. Designer Rowley has made a radical departure in the art of draughting, by ignoring a center line, the two sides of every piece of eccentric work, gotten out by this corporation, differing from each other in essential particulars. The carving and decoration is invariably dissimilar, and yet in perfect union with the whole.

Mr. William A. Berkey has discontinued the manufacture of fancy cabinet ware. By a fire in the machinery department of his factory on the 16th of August, he suffered a loss of about \$5,000, which was nearly covered by an insurance of \$4,600.

The M'Cord and Bradfield Furniture Company is building a new brick engine house, 40 x 100 feet in size, two stories high, and is also putting in considerable new machinery. The betterment will cost \$20,000.